Besides, 24 Weavers Service Centres are setup in different parts of the country including one each in Mumbai and Nagpur, which provide design guidance, training and technical inputs to the handloom weavers.

As far as powerloom sector is concerned. Government has taken following initiatives to facilitate growth of the powerloom industry:-

(i) A programme for induction of 50,000 shuttle-less and for 2.50 lakh semi-automatic and automatic looms in the decentralized powerloom sector has been announced. Incentives are available under the Technology Up-gradation Fund Scheme where the powerloom owner can either avail 12% upfront Capital linked subsidy or reduce cost of borrowing the capital by interest reimbursement of 5%.

(ii) Forty-four Powerloom Service Centres, established to provide service, such as designs, training, skill up-gradation and the testing facilities to the powerloom weavers.

(iii) Seventeen Computer aided Design Centres in Powerloom Service Centres have been established to facilitate the creation of new designs and improve design and production.

(iv) Powerloom Export Entitlement (PEE) quota has been provided to encourage exports of powerloom cloth; and

(v) Under the Special 'Powerloom Package', a Group Insurance Scheme is being implemented to provide cover to the powerloom workers against death, accident and disability; and a 'Group Workshed Scheme' has been approved to create a better working environment and obtain higher productivity.

Rapid development of textile industry

†1173. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for rapid development of textile

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

industry and to make it a profitable industry under the National Textile Policy, 2000;

(b) whether the same has been implemented;

(c) if so, the result thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (d) Taking note of the new challenges and opportunities presented by the changing global environment including an integration of the world textile and clothing markets by end 2004, the Government of India have announced a National Textile Policy in November 2000 to develop a strong and vibrant textile industry capable of producing cloth of good quality at acceptable prices as well as of competing with confidence with other textile producing countries for an increasing share of global market. some of the major steps undertaken for implementation of the Policy are:-

(i) De-reservation of woven readymade garment sector from SSI.

(ii) Announcement in three consecutive Budgets aiming *inter-alia* at further rationalisation of duty structure in the textile sector and reducing costs of machinery critical to technology upgradation;

(iii) Launching of schemes of Apparel Parks for Exports and Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme for upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres;

(iv) Concerted action for implementation of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme and Technology Mission on the Cotton schemes;

(v) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route in the textile sector with certain exceptions;

(vi) Launching of a programme as part of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for modernisation of weaving capacities.

As a result of these and other steps taken in the wake of National Textile Policy 2000, the production of textile items have increasing from 39208 mn. Sq. mtrs. in 1999-2000 to 42034 mn. Sq. mtrs. in 2001-2002 as per the figures available. Export of textiles including has increased from Rs.45536.20 crore in 1999-2000 to Rs. 50960.31 crore in 2001-2002. Per capita availability of cloth has increased from 30.55 Sq. mtrs. in 1999-2000 to 31.97 Sq. mtrs. in 2001-2002.

Exports of Textiles Products from Rajasthan

1174. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile industries of Rajasthan are passing though period of recession;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether textiles products from Rajasthan are being exported;

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating the export earnings during last three years;

(f) whether the ban imposed by WTO on the exports of Indian textiles still operative;

(g) by when, the ban would expire; and